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TO THE

Catalogue Raisonne

OF THE

Persian Manuscripts

IN THE

ORIENTAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

AT

BANKIPORE

Prepared by

MAULAVI ABDUL MUQTADIR

(*Khan Bahadur*)

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PREFACE

THE work of preparing a descriptive Catalogue of the Arabic and Persian MSS. in the Oriental Public Library at Bankipore (Patna) was taken up by the Government of Bengal in 1903 at the instruction and under the guidance of Dr. (since Sir) Denison Ross, the then Principal of the Calcutta Madrasah. The task of Cataloguing of Persian MSS. fell to the lot of Maulavi (now Khan Bahadur) Abdul Muqtadir, who after a constant and hard labour of twenty-seven years, finished it successfully and reaped the rich harvest of praise and compliment from Oriental scholars all over the world.

The work of preparing an Index to the Persian Catalogue was also undertaken by him, while he was professor at Ravenshaw College, Cuttack. But it was not yet finished when he retired from Government Service The work being important, it was entrusted by Mr. G E Fawcus, C.I.E., O.B.E., I E S , the then D P.I., to Dr Azimuddin Ahmad, until lately the Head of the Arabic and Persian Departments of Patna College and once a veteran Cataloguer of the Library, in 1936, soon after his retirement from service After a vigilant and strenuous work of several months, he arranged the cards properly and completed both the sections of the Index, Titles as well as Persons

The work of revising the proofs was undertaken by Maulavi Mas'ûd 'Âlam Nadwî, the present Cataloguer of the library. The revision of the Index proofs had cost much time and labour Besides comparing them with the cards and sometimes with the original texts, it required further alterations and improvements. The final revision of the proofs is due to Dr. Ahmad. Thus, the honour of preparing the Index is shared by three scholars: the compiler of the Persian Catalogue, Dr A Ahmad, and the present cataloguer However, the original arrangement of having the index of each volume separately was not altered, as it meant reconstruction of the whole work, though it would have been more convenient to arrange the whole Index collectively.

Our sincere thanks are due to Dr. A. Ahmad, whose unfailing assistance and ripe experience were always at our disposal.

S C. SARKAR,
M.A., D.Phil (Oxon.),
Principal, Patna College.

Dated, Patna,
the 8th march. 1939.

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